

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of the Claims**

14. (currently amended) A method for handling a ~~sample~~ plurality of samples in a multi-channel capillary electrophoresis apparatus comprising:

providing a plurality of samples ~~sample~~ located on a work surface, with each sample at a respective work surface coordinate, wherein the temperature of the work surface is controlled by a temperature controller;

simultaneously transferring at least two of the samples ~~sample~~ from their respective ~~the~~ work surface ~~coordinate~~ coordinates to a respective loading ~~well~~ wells not located on the work surface, wherein ~~the~~ each loading well includes a capillary ~~fixedly~~ positioned therein; and

injecting the ~~sample~~ samples from the loading ~~well~~ wells into the ~~capillary~~ capillaries.

15. (currently amended) The method of **claim 14** wherein ~~the~~ each work surface coordinate is defined by a respective sample well.

16. (previously presented) The method of **claim 14** wherein the loading well is located in a sample loading assembly.

17. (previously presented) The method of **claim 14** wherein the injecting is performed by electrokinetic injection.